

What is claimed is:

1. A method for reducing the number of operations performed on a recording disk during Mt. Rainier defect processing, comprising:
 - a. writing data from a host to a recording disk;
 - 5 b. if there are defects in a section where data is to be written, searching for a replacement block for the currently-processed defective block;
 - c. if there is previous replaced data currently stored in the replacement packet buffer (RPB), and if the packet in the RPB is not the same as the packet for the replacement block, then:
 - 10 c1. writing the RPB data to a corresponding spare block in the recording disk;
 - c2. reading the replacement block into the RPB;
 - c3. copying the data in the currently-processed defective block into the corresponding replacement block in the RPB; and
 - 15 d. if there is previous replaced data currently stored in the RPB, and if the packet in the RPB is the same as the packet for the replacement block, then performing step c3 while omitting steps c1 and c2.
2. The method of claim 1, further including:
 - 20 writing RPB data to spare blocks on the recording disk if all the data has been written to the recording disk and there are no further defects in the section where data is to be written.
3. The method of claim 1, further including:
 - 25 e. if there are further defects in the section where data is to be written, repeating steps c, c1, c2, c3 and d.

4. A method for reducing the number of operations performed on a recording disk during Mt. Rainier defect processing, comprising:

- a. writing data from a host to a recording disk;
- 5 b. if there are defects in the section where data is to be written, searching for a replacement block for the currently-processed defective block ;
- c. if there is previous replaced data currently stored in the replacement packet buffer (RPB), and if the packet in the RPB is the same as the packet for the replacement block, then only copying the data in the currently-processed defective
- 10 block into the corresponding replacement block in the RPB without any reading operations.

5. The method of claim 4, further including:

- writing RPB data to spare blocks on the recording disk if all the data has been
- 15 written to the recording disk and there are no further defects in the section where data is to be written.

6. The method of claim 4, further including:

- d. if there is previous replaced data stored in the RPB, and if the packet in
- 20 the RPB is not the same as the packet for the replacement block, then:
 - d1. writing the RPB data to a corresponding spare block in the recording disk;
 - d2. reading the replacement block into the RPB;
 - d3. copying the data in the currently-processed defective block into
 - 25 the corresponding replacement block in the RPB.